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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LOPEZ PORTILLO ON FOREIGN POLICY

DURING A SEPTEMBER 21 PRESS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ PORTILLO OF MEXICO SAID:

--THE DECISION BY MEXICO TO JOIN OPEC WILL DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IN NO CASE WOULD MEXICO SELL OIL AT LESS THAN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET PRICE.

--NO DECISION CAN BE MADE ON BELIZE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE CITIZENS OF BELIZE.

--THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT "THE JUST CLAIMS OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE."

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--MEXICO WILL NOT RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
CHILE AS LONG AS THE PRESENT SITUATION EXISTS.
(UNCLASSIFIED) CARACAS 11362, 9/23.)

2. SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

THE NATIONAL PARTY ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 23 THAT MULTIRACIAL SPORTING EVENTS WOULD BE PERMITTED IN SOUTH AFRICA AT ALL LEVELS. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE RACIAL GROUPS TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS, SPORTS EVENTS BETWEEN TEAMS FROM DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS WILL BE AUTHORIZED. IN ADDITION, MIXED TEAMS WILL BE PERMITTED TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA OVERSEAS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: AS A COUNTRY WHICH LOVES SPORTS, SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN HIT HARD BY ITS INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC OSTRACISM. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE CHANGE OF POLICY WILL ACHIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE GAINING REENTRY INTO INTERNATIONAL SPORTS. AS WELCOME AS IT MAY BE, THIS REPRESENTS ONLY A SLIGHT SHIFT IN BASIC APARTHEID POLICY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PRETORIA 4362, 9/24.) KISSINGER

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